

E-CONNECTION



Dear NHSC Members:

We are thrilled to be rolling out our first NHSC *E-Connection* online newsletter. This e-mail will provide a number of resources:

- An update on National Health Service Corps (NHSC) news and upcoming activities
- A spotlight on innovative clinicians
- Timely health care information and valuable resources that will complement your work efforts in the field
- Practical ideas to implement in your communities

Program Announcements

Most of the 2003 NHSC Scholars graduating in May-June have identified their own placement opportunities at eligible NHSC sites. As of April 30, 2003, over 91% of the disciplines listed below matched to their sites by the deadline:

Family Practice	88.7%
Internal Medicine	91.6%
OB/GYN	78.5%
Pediatricians	92.8%
Psychiatrist	100.0%

These are excellent results! Stay tuned for updates on other disciplines in the next E-Connection.

In July and September, the NHSC will be hosting conferences specifically for Scholars in the current placement cycle. Look for upcoming details in the near future.

The NHSC is launching a Demonstration Project to determine whether adding chiropractors and pharmacists, as permanent NHSC members, would enhance the effectiveness of the NHSC. These two disciplines are now eligible to apply for the 2003 NHSC Loan Repayment Program.

Visit http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/demo_project/index.html for eligibility criteria, requirements, and an overview of the project.

Clinicians Customizing Care

Diana Caplan, a certified nurse midwife at Holy Family Birthing Center in Weslaco, Texas, advises:

"You have to learn to separate your own values as a midwife from those of the patients if you are to ensure the birth experience they want." Caplan observes. "As midwives, we assume that having the family present for the birth of a child is what a mother would want. But sometimes this is not what the mother wants. After caring for a family of six, more often than not, a woman wants the space away

from family to concentrate fully on her labor and connect with her own needs."

For more member profiles and success stories, read our *NHSC In Touch* newsletter on the NHSC Web site.

<http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/publications/intouch.html>

Health Awareness Campaigns

Mental Health Month (May)

The National Mental Health Association offers information sheets on stress, grief, violence, personal safety, and more that could be used as patient handouts. <http://www.nmha.org>

Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month (May)

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America provides basic disease information, statistics, FAQs, stories about asthma and allergies, and much more. Call 1-800-7-ASTHMA (1-800-727-8462), or visit their Web site. <http://www.aafa.org>

National SAFE KIDS Week (May 3-10)

National SAFE KIDS Campaign is dedicated to the prevention of unintentional childhood injury "which is the number one killer of children age 14 and under." Visit their Web site, print safety quizzes (and answers) for adults and children, and place them in your clinic waiting area. <http://www.safekids.org>

National Women's Health Week (May 11-17)

May is also Asian and Pacific Islander Women's Health Month — a good time to host a health fair at your clinic; offerings could include preventive services, such as cholesterol and blood pressure screening, and hearing tests, and as well as a health education discussion. Visit The National Women's Health Information Center Web site to print short, easy-to-follow health information sheets to give out to community members.

<http://www.4woman.gov/WHW/index.htm>

Health Education

Breast cancer is on the rise for women of Asian and Pacific Islander descent living in the United States. The National Cancer Institute (NCI), in cooperation with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, produced a new brochure about the importance of mammograms called "Do It for Yourself, Do It for Your Family." To order free copies in English, Chinese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese, call NCI's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237), or visit their Web site.

<http://breasthealth.cancer.gov>

NHSC

Bringing America's Health Care Heroes
to Your Hometown

